

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1467

To establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Demonstration Program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2007

Mr. BIDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Demonstration Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EARLY FEDERAL PELL GRANT COMMITMENT**

4 **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

5 Subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-  
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.) is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 401B. EARLY FEDERAL PELL GRANT COMMITMENT**

9 **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

10 **“(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—**

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
2           to carry out an Early Federal Pell Grant Commit-  
3           ment Demonstration Program under which—

4                   “(A) the Secretary awards grants to 4  
5           State educational agencies, in accordance with  
6           paragraph (2), to pay the administrative ex-  
7           penses incurred in participating in the dem-  
8           onstration program under this section; and

9                   “(B) the Secretary awards Federal Pell  
10          Grants to participating students in accordance  
11          with this section.

12          “(2) GRANTS.—

13                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-  
14          priated under subsection (g) for a fiscal year,  
15          the Secretary is authorized to award grants to  
16          4 State educational agencies to enable the State  
17          educational agencies to pay the administrative  
18          expenses incurred in participating in a dem-  
19          onstration program under which students in 8th  
20          grade who are eligible for a free or reduced  
21          price meal receive a commitment to receive a  
22          Federal Pell Grant early in their academic ca-  
23          reers.

24                   “(B) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary  
25          shall award grants under this section in equal

1 amounts to each of the 4 participating State  
2 educational agencies.

3 “(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—  
4 Each of the 4 demonstration projects assisted under this  
5 section shall meet the following requirements:

6 “(1) PARTICIPANTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The State educational  
8 agency shall make participation in the dem-  
9 onstration project available to 2 cohorts of stu-  
10 dents, which shall consist of—

11 “(i) 1 cohort of 8th grade students  
12 who begin the participation in academic  
13 year 2007–2008; and

14 “(ii) 1 cohort of 8th grade students  
15 who begin the participation in academic  
16 year 2008–2009.

17 “(B) STUDENTS IN EACH COHORT.—Each  
18 cohort of students shall consist of not more  
19 than 10,000 8th grade students who qualify for  
20 a free or reduced price meal under the Richard  
21 B. Russell National School Lunch Act or the  
22 Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

23 “(2) STUDENT DATA.—The State educational  
24 agency shall ensure that student data from local  
25 educational agencies serving students who partici-

1       pate in the demonstration project, as well as student  
 2       data from local educational agencies serving a com-  
 3       parable group of students who do not participate in  
 4       the demonstration project, are available for evalua-  
 5       tion of the demonstration project.

6           “(3) FEDERAL PELL GRANT COMMITMENT.—  
 7       Each student who participates in the demonstration  
 8       project receives a commitment from the Secretary to  
 9       receive a Federal Pell Grant during the first aca-  
 10      demic year that student is in attendance at an insti-  
 11      tution of higher education as an undergraduate, if  
 12      the student applies for Federal financial aid (via the  
 13      FAFSA) during the student’s senior year of sec-  
 14      ondary school and during succeeding years.

15          “(4) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL PELL GRANT  
 16      REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of section 401  
 17      shall apply to Federal Pell Grants awarded pursuant  
 18      to this section, except that the amount of each par-  
 19      ticipating student’s Federal Pell Grant only shall be  
 20      calculated by deeming such student to have an ex-  
 21      pected family contribution equal to zero.

22          “(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary  
 23      shall establish an application process to select State  
 24      educational agencies to participate in the demonstra-  
 25      tion program and State educational agencies shall

1 establish an application process to select local edu-  
2 cational agencies within the State to participate in  
3 the demonstration project.

4 “(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PARTICIPA-  
5 TION.—Subject to the 10,000 statewide student limi-  
6 tation described in paragraph (1), a local edu-  
7 cational agency serving students, not less than 50  
8 percent of whom are eligible for a free or reduced  
9 price meal under the Richard B. Russell National  
10 School Lunch Act or the Child Nutritional Act of  
11 1966, shall be eligible to participate in the dem-  
12 onstration project.

13 “(c) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICA-  
14 TIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational  
16 agency desiring to participate in the demonstration  
17 program under this section shall submit an applica-  
18 tion to the Secretary at such time and in such man-  
19 ner as the Secretary may require.

20 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application shall in-  
21 clude—

22 “(A) a description of the proposed targeted  
23 information campaign for the demonstration  
24 project and a copy of the plan described in sub-  
25 section (f)(2);

1           “(B) a description of the student popu-  
 2           lation that will receive an early commitment to  
 3           receive a Federal Pell Grant under this section;

4           “(C) an assurance that the State edu-  
 5           cational agency will fully cooperate with the on-  
 6           going evaluation of the demonstration project;  
 7           and

8           “(D) such other information as the Sec-  
 9           retary may require.

10       “(d) SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—

11           “(1) SELECTION OF STATE EDUCATIONAL  
 12           AGENCIES.—In selecting State educational agencies  
 13           to participate in the demonstration program, the  
 14           Secretary shall consider—

15           “(A) the number and quality of State edu-  
 16           cational agency applications received;

17           “(B) the Department’s capacity to oversee  
 18           and monitor each State educational agency’s  
 19           participation in the demonstration program;

20           “(C) a State educational agency’s—

21                   “(i) financial responsibility;

22                   “(ii) administrative capability;

23                   “(iii) commitment to focusing State  
 24           resources, in addition to any resources pro-  
 25           vided under part A of title I of the Ele-

mentary and Secondary Education Act of  
1965, on students who receive assistance  
under such part A;

“(iv) the ability and plans of a State  
educational agency to run an effective and  
thorough targeted information campaign  
for students served by local educational  
agencies eligible to participate in the dem-  
onstration project; and

“(v) ensuring the participation in the  
demonstration program of a diverse group  
of students with respect to ethnicity and  
gender.

“(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—In select-  
ing local educational agencies to participate in a  
demonstration project under this section, the State  
educational agency shall consider—

“(A) the number and quality of local edu-  
cational agency applications received;

“(B) the State educational agency’s capac-  
ity to oversee and monitor each local edu-  
cational agency’s participation in the dem-  
onstration project;

“(C) a local educational agency’s—

“(i) financial responsibility;

1 “(ii) administrative capability;

2 “(iii) commitment to focusing local re-  
3 sources, in addition to any resources pro-  
4 vided under part A of title I of the Ele-  
5 mentary and Secondary Education Act of  
6 1965, on students who receive assistance  
7 under such part A;

8 “(iv) the ability and plans of a local  
9 educational agency to run an effective and  
10 thorough targeted information campaign  
11 for students served by the local educational  
12 agency; and

13 “(v) ensuring the participation in the  
14 demonstration project of a diverse group of  
15 students with respect to ethnicity and gen-  
16 der.

17 “(e) EVALUATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-  
19 priated under section (g) for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
20 retary shall reserve not more than \$1,000,000 to  
21 award a grant or contract to an organization outside  
22 the Department for an independent evaluation of the  
23 impact of the demonstration program assisted under  
24 this section.



1           “(2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The grant or con-  
2       tract shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

3           “(3) MATTERS EVALUATED.—The evaluation  
4       described in this subsection shall—

5           “(A) determine the number of individuals  
6       who were encouraged by the demonstration pro-  
7       gram to pursue higher education;

8           “(B) identify the barriers to the effective-  
9       ness of the demonstration program;

10          “(C) assess the cost-effectiveness of the  
11       demonstration program in improving access to  
12       higher education;

13          “(D) identify the reasons why participants  
14       in the demonstration program either received or  
15       did not receive a Federal Pell Grant;

16          “(E) identify intermediate outcomes (rel-  
17       ative to postsecondary education attendance),  
18       such as whether participants—

19           “(i) were more likely to take a college-  
20       prep curriculum while in secondary school;

21           “(ii) submitted any college applica-  
22       tions; and

23           “(iii) took the PSAT, SAT, or ACT;

24          “(F) identify the number of individuals  
25       participating in the demonstration program who

1           pursued an associate's degree or a bachelor's  
2           degree, as well as other forms of postsecondary  
3           education;

4           “(G) compare the findings of the dem-  
5           onstration program with respect to participants  
6           to comparison groups (of similar size and demo-  
7           graphics) that did not participate in the dem-  
8           onstration program; and

9           “(H) identify the impact on the parents of  
10          students eligible to participate in the dem-  
11          onstration program.

12          “(4) DISSEMINATION.—The findings of the  
13          evaluation shall be widely disseminated to the public  
14          by the organization conducting the evaluation as well  
15          as by the Secretary.

16          “(f) TARGETED INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.—

17               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational  
18               agency receiving a grant under this section shall, in  
19               cooperation with the participating local educational  
20               agencies within the State and the Secretary, develop  
21               a targeted information campaign for the demonstra-  
22               tion program assisted under this section.

23               “(2) PLAN.—Each State educational agency re-  
24               ceiving a grant under this section shall include in  
25               the application submitted under subsection (c) a

1 written plan for their proposed targeted information  
 2 campaign. The plan shall include the following:

3 “(A) OUTREACH.—Outreach to students  
 4 and their families, at a minimum, at the begin-  
 5 ning and end of each academic year of the dem-  
 6 onstration project.

7 “(B) DISTRIBUTION.—How the State edu-  
 8 cational agency plans to provide the outreach  
 9 described in subparagraph (A) and to provide  
 10 the information described in subparagraph (C).

11 “(C) INFORMATION.—The annual provi-  
 12 sion by the State educational agency to all stu-  
 13 dents and families participating in the dem-  
 14 onstration program of information regarding—

15 “(i) the estimated statewide average  
 16 higher education institution cost data for  
 17 each academic year, which cost data shall  
 18 be disaggregated by—

19 “(I) type of institution, includ-  
 20 ing—

21 “(aa) 2-year public colleges;

22 “(bb) 4-year public colleges;

23 and

24 “(cc) 4-year private colleges;

25 “(II) by component, including—

1 “(aa) tuition and fees; and

2 “(bb) room and board;

3 “(ii) Federal Pell Grants, including—

4 “(I) the maximum Federal Pell  
5 Grant for each academic year;

6 “(II) when and how to apply for  
7 a Federal Pell Grant; and

8 “(III) what the application proc-  
9 ess for a Federal Pell Grant requires;

10 “(iii) State-specific college savings  
11 programs;

12 “(iv) State-based merit aid;

13 “(v) State-based financial aid; and

14 “(vi) Federal financial aid available to  
15 students, including eligibility criteria for  
16 the Federal financial aid and an expla-  
17 nation of the Federal financial aid pro-  
18 grams.

19 “(3) COHORTS.—The information described in  
20 paragraph (2)(C) shall be provided to 2 cohorts of  
21 students annually for the duration of the students’  
22 participation in the demonstration program. The 2  
23 cohorts shall consist of—

1           “(A) 1 cohort of 8th grade students who  
2           begin the participation in academic year 2007–  
3           2008; and

4           “(B) 1 cohort of 8th grade students who  
5           begin the participation in academic year 2008–  
6           2009.

7           “(4) RESERVATION.—Each State educational  
8           agency receiving a grant under this section shall re-  
9           serve \$200,000 of the grant funds received each fis-  
10          cal year for each of the 2 cohorts of students (for  
11          a total reservation of \$400,000 each fiscal year)  
12          served by the State to carry out their targeted infor-  
13          mation campaign described in this subsection.

14          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
16          tion—

17               “(1) \$1,300,000 for fiscal year 2008, of  
18               which—

19                       “(A) \$500,000 shall be available to carry  
20                       out subsection (e); and

21                       “(B) \$800,000 shall be available to carry  
22                       out subsection (f)(2)(C);

23               “(2) \$1,600,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which  
24               \$1,600,000 shall be available to carry out subsection  
25               (f)(2)(C);

1           “(3) \$1,600,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which  
2           \$1,600,000 shall be available to carry out subsection  
3           (f)(2)(C);

4           “(4) \$2,100,000 for fiscal year 2011, of  
5           which—

6                   “(A) \$500,000 shall be available to carry  
7                   out subsection (e); and

8                   “(B) \$1,600,000 shall be available to carry  
9                   out subsection (f)(2)(C);

10           “(5) \$1,600,000 for fiscal year 2012, of which  
11           \$1,600,000 shall be available to carry out subsection  
12           (f)(2)(C);

13           “(6) \$14,600,000 for fiscal year 2013, of  
14           which—

15                   “(A) \$800,000 shall be available to carry  
16                   out subsection (f)(2)(C); and

17                   “(B) \$13,800,000 shall be available for  
18                   Federal Pell Grants provided in accordance  
19                   with this section; and

20           “(7) \$13,800,000 for fiscal year 2014, of which  
21           \$13,800,000 shall be available for Federal Pell  
22           Grants provided in accordance with this section.”.

○